

Message Text

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P 112310Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (GROVE, THOMAS ARTHUR), NP

SUBJECT: REPORT TO REVEREND ARTHUR L. GROVE

1. SUMMARY: ON AUGUST 11, DEP ASST SEC DUBS CALLED REVEREND GROVE, THE FATHER OF THOMAS, TO REPORT ACTIONS THAT HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT AND THE EMBASSY PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE. DUBS NOTED THAT THESE ACTIONS RELATED SPECIFICALLY TO THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENT IN HIS LETTER OF AUGUST 9 TO REVEREND GROVE THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD BEEN ASKED TO SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH AMBASSADOR MAYTAG TO THE NEPALESE AUTHORITIES AGAIN URGING THEM TO PURSUE THE GROVE CASE WITH MAXIMUM EFFORT. REVEREND GROVE EXPRESSED HEARTFELT APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER AND THE EFFORTS OF THE EMBASSY AND THE DEPARTMENT. DUBS SAID WE WOULD REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH, AS THE PRESIDENT HAD INDICATED WE WOULD. END SUMMARY.

2. REVEREND GROVE WAS INFORMED BY DUBS THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD CABLED A COPY OF HIS LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT TO AMBASSADOR MAYTAG WITH INSTRUCTIONS THAT SHE MAKE ANOTHER EFFORT ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY TO URGE NEPALESE AUTHORI-
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TIES TO INTENSIFY THEIR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFOR-

MATION ON THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THOMAS GROVE. AMBASSADOR MAYTAG WAS ALSO INSTRUCTED TO URGE THE NEPALESE AUTHORITIES

TO DEVOTE ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS TO FOLLOWING UP REMAINING LEADS IN THE CASE IN ORDER TO BRING THE CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE.

3. DUBS THEN GAVE REVEREND GROVE A RUNDOWN OF AMBASSADOR MAYTAG'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATION TO KING BIRENDRA ON AUGUST 8 (REFTEL). REVEREND GROVE WAS ALSO INFORMED OF THE LATEST CONTACT REPORTED IN REFTEL BETWEEN AN EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE. DUBS ALSO NOTED THAT HE HAD CALLED IN THE NEPALESE AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON ON AUGUST 5 TO CONVEY A REQUEST ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY THAT NEPALESE AUTHORITIES MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO FURTHER INVESTIGATE ALL LEADS AND ESTABLISH THE FACTS SURROUNDING THOMAS GROVE'S DISAPPEARANCE.

4. REVEREND GROVE EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE CALL AND IMMEDIATELY REFERRED TO THE WARM AND THOUGHTFUL LETTER THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENT FORD. HE SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN MOST DILIGENT AND HELPFUL WITH RESPECT TO THE INVESTIGATION OF TOM'S DISAPPEARANCE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND SPOKE ESPECIALLY FAVORABLY ABOUT THE EFFORTS OF LORRAINE POLIK OF SCS. REVEREND GROVE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN KEPT ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT, THE EMBASSY AND DR. TAYLOR, OF JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, WHO HAD BEEN TRAVELLING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN NEPAL AND THE U.S. REVEREND GROVE REPORTED THAT HE HAD FOUND OUT JUST RECENTLY HOW MR. SUNWAR WAS APPREHENDED THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF MR. MCCOY AND OTHERS OF EMBASSY KATHMANDU. REVEREND GROVE NOTED THAT HE CONTINUED TO BE DISTURBED ABOUT ASPECTS OF THE CASE ABOUT WHICH THE EMBASSY IS FULLY AWARE. HE NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT SUNWAR HAD NEW CLOTHING WHEN HE WAS APPREHENDED AND THAT THERE WERE REPORTS THAT HE HAD SOLD SOME TREKKING EQUIPMENT, WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN TOM'S. IT WAS FURTHER NOTED THAT SOME OF TOM'S TRAVELERS CHECKS HAD EVIDENTLY BEEN CASHED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT THE SAME BANK WINDOW AT THE AIRPORT. REVEREND GROVE SPECULATED THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME PAYOFFS BETWEEN POLICE AND BANK OFFICIALS. EVIDENTLY, HE ADDED, SOME DOLS. 1,500 OF TOM'S TRAVELERS CHECKS ARE STILL OUTSTANDING AND PRESUMABLY HAVE NOT BEEN CASHED BECAUSE OF AN AWARENESS THAT THE CASE WAS BEING INVESTIGATED. REVEREND GROVE REPEATED HIS GREAT APPRECIATION FOR THE CONCERN OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE EMBASSY.

5. DUBS SAID THAT HE OR OTHERS IN THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH REVEREND GROVE IMMEDIATELY SHOULD FURTHER INFORMATION BECOME AVAILABLE ON TOM'S DISAPPEARANCE. DUBS

EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE CASE WOULD BE NOW PURSUED EVEN MORE VIGOROUSLY FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR MAYTAG'S MEETING WITH KING BIRENDRA. DUBS INDICATED THAT WE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING REVEREND GROVE IN WASHINGTON ANY TIME THAT HE VISITED HERE SO THAT CONCERNED OFFICIALS MIGHT TALK WITH HIM PERSONALLY ABOUT THE CASE OF HIS SON.

6. TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO REVEREND GROVE IS BEING CABLED TO THE EMBASSY IN A SEPARATE CABLE. ROBINSON

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